



# Europe and Russia: Physical Geography

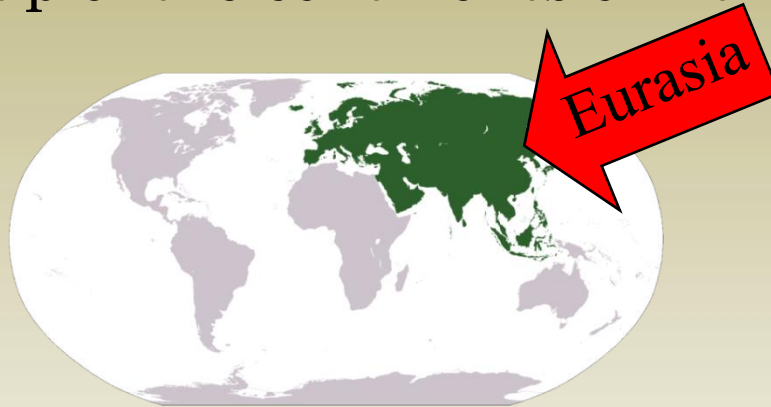
Chapter 14

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# Eurasia

- **Eurasia** is the world's largest landmass. It is made up of the continents of Europe and Asia.



- The continent of Europe is made of of 48 different countries – each is about the size of an average U.S. state.
- Included on the European continent is part of of Russia – the largest country in the world.



# Physical Features

- Major regions in Europe:
  - Northwestern Highlands
    - Found in the northern parts of France, Great Britain, and Scandinavia. Few people live here due to the thin soil, poor farming, and severe climate.
  - North European Plain
    - Extends from Southern England and France to the foot of the Ural Mountains in Russia. This region has rich soil, good farmland, and a high population density.



# Physical Features

- Major regions in Europe:
  - Central Uplands
    - Stretch across the center of southern Europe. Made up of mountains and **plateaus** (large raised areas of level land). The soil is too rocky for farming, however, the land is rich in minerals.
  - Alpine Mountain System
    - Series of high mountain ranges. They stretch across Europe from Spain to the Balkans and extend to Georgia east of the Black Sea. The region is home to many small farming families.

# Region Study

- H.E.I. Brain Teaser...
  - In warm countries, such as Spain, many homes are built with thick walls. Why do you think is done?
  - In colder countries, like Sweden, homes are often built with **steep** roofs. Why do many home owners choose this design?



# Humans and the Physical Environment

- Much of northwestern Europe (along the coast of Norway) have a marine west coast climate. They are rainy year round.



Northwestern Europe

- The Countries around the Mediterranean have warm summers and mild winters. These countries receive shelter from the Alpine Mountains and receive little rainfall.

Mediterranean Ring



# Humans and the Physical Environment

- Most of Eastern Europe is in the humid continental region. These inland areas are out of range of the warm, moist air that blow in from the Atlantic Ocean. This area has long, cold winters.



- Last, is the subarctic and **tundra** areas of northeast Europe. Few people live here due to the dark, cold climate.